

CHANGES IN THE A. O. U. CHECK-LIST OF NORTH  
AMERICAN BIRDS PROPOSED SINCE THE  
PUBLICATION OF THE SIXTEENTH  
SUPPLEMENT.

THE changes in the A. O. U. Check-List which have appeared from time to time in the several Supplements have originated in the publications of various ornithologists throughout the world, and have been considered by the Committee on Classification and Nomenclature, and accepted or rejected as the case may be.

The cases that come before the Committee are of two kinds:

- (a.) Nomenclatural — cases which are easily settled by correspondence between the members of the Subcommittee on Nomenclature, all of these being governed by a definite Code of rules.
- (b.) Ornithological — much more difficult cases involving the study of series of specimens and resting largely upon the personal opinion of the members, which may vary widely.

It was formerly the custom for the Committee to meet in Washington annually in April to dispose of accumulated cases. Of late years however, this has proven unsatisfactory as neither time nor material was available for the proper consideration of many proposed new forms based upon very slight differences. The following plan has therefore been adopted by the Committee in the consideration of ornithological cases.

To publish an annual list of proposed additions and alterations inviting study and criticism of them by ornithologists, whether members of the committee or not. In succeeding lists attention will be called to any publication endorsing or opposing changes or additions previously proposed, and it is hoped that in this way, the Committee may secure valuable assistance to guide them in reaching a decision, when a new edition of the Check-List is to be published, or at such time as it may be considered desirable to issue a Supplement.

In order to put this plan into operation the Acting Chairman

submits the following summary of changes and additions proposed since the publication of the 1910 edition of the Check-List and not considered in the Sixteenth Supplement,<sup>1</sup> exclusive of purely nomenclatural cases which, as explained above, are disposed of by the Subcommittee on Nomenclature. The list is probably incomplete but omissions can be added in subsequent publications.—WITMER STONE, *Acting Chairman Com. Classification and Nomenclature*.

#### I. ADDITIONS TO THE CHECK-LIST.

(a) Forms described as new, or rejected forms reestablished.

**Larus thayeri** sp. nov. Ellesmere Land. Brooks, Bull. M. C. Z., LIX, No. 5, p. 373.

**Puffinus puffinus bermudæ** subsp. nov. Bermuda. Nichols and Mowbray, Auk, 1916, p. 195.

**Æstrelata cahow** sp. nov. Bermuda. Nichols and Mowbray, Auk, 1916, p. 194.

**Histrionicus histrionicus pacificus** subsp. nov. Pacific coast. Brooks, Bull. M. C. Z., LIX, No. 5, p. 393.

**Oidemia deglandi dixonii** subsp. nov. Alaska. Brooks, Bull. M. C. Z., LIX, No. 5, p. 393.

**Ardea herodias treganzai** Court.

“ “ **sanctiluæ** Thayer and Bangs.

“ “ **hyperoncha** subsp. nov. Pacific coast, Cal.

“ “ **oligista** subsp. nov. Santa Barbara Isl.

These four races recognized by Oberholser. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., 43, pp. 531-559.

**Colinus virginianus taylori** subsp. nov. Yuma Co., Col. Lincoln, Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., May 27, 1915, p. 103.

**Lophortyx gambelli sanus** subsp. nov. Olathe, Colo. Mearns, Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., XXVII, p. 113.

**Dendragapus obscurus flemingi** subsp. nov. Yukon Terr. Taverner, Auk, 1914, p. 385.

**Bonasa umbellus thayeri** subsp. nov. Digby, N. S. Bangs, Auk, 1912, p. 378.

**Bonasa umbellus yukonensis** subsp. nov. Yukon Terr. Grinnell, Condor, 1916, p. 166.

**Lagopus leucurus altipetens** Osgood, revived by Riley, Canad. Alpine Jour., 1912, p. 60.

**Lagopus rupestris sanfordi** subsp. nov. Tanaga Isl., Aleutian Chain. Bent, Smithsonian. Misc. Collns. 56, No. 30, p. 1.

**Zenaidura macroura caurina** subsp. nov. Oregon. Ridgway, Bds. N. and Mid. Amer., VII, p. 348.

<sup>1</sup> 'The Auk,' 1912, pp. 380-387.

- Buteo lineatus texanus** subsp. nov. Corpus Christi, Texas. Bishop, Auk, 1912, p. 232.
- Otus asio quercinus** subsp. nov. So. California. Grinnell, Auk, 1915, p. 60.
- Otus asio hasbroucki** subsp. nov. Palo Pinto Co., Tex. Ridgway, Bds. N. and Mid. Amer., VI, p. 694.
- Otus asio brewsteri** subsp. nov. Salem, Oregon. Ridgway, Bds. N. and Mid. Amer., VI, p. 700.
- Bubo virginianus neochanes** subsp. nov. Newfoundland. Oberholser, Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash. XXVII, p. 46.
- Bubo virginianus occidentalis** Stone.  
 " " **icelus** (Oberholser).  
 " " **lagophonus** (Oberholser).
- These three races revived by Ridgway, Birds of N. and Mid. Amer., VI.
- Strix occidentalis lucida** Nelson with which **S. o. huachucae** Swarth is regarded as identical. Oberholser, Proc. U. S. N. M., 49, pp. 251-257.
- Cryptoglaux acadica brooksi** subsp. nov. Queen Charlotte Islands. Fleming, Auk, 1916, p. 422.
- Glaucidium gnoma vigilante** subsp. nov. Mountains of S. California and southern Sierra Nevada. Grinnell, Auk, 1913, p. 224.
- Glaucidium gnoma swarthi** subsp. nov. Vancouver Island. Grinnell, Auk, 1913, p. 224.
- Glaucidium gnoma grinnelli** subsp. nov. Humboldt Bay, Cal. Ridgway, Birds N. and Mid. Amer., VI, p. 791.
- Micropallas whitneyi sanfordi** subsp. nov. Lower California. Ridgway, Birds N. and Mid. Amer., VI, p. 809.
- Micropallas whitneyi idoneus** subsp. nov. Hidalgo, Texas. Ridgway, Birds N. and Mid. Amer., VI, p. 810.
- Conuropsis carolinensis interior** subsp. nov. Nebraska. Bangs, Proc. N. E. Zool. Club, IV, p. 93. [Applicability of *ludovicianus* of Gmelin for this race must also be considered.]
- Dryobates pubescens microleucus** subsp. nov. Newfoundland. Oberholser, Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., XXVII, p. 43.
- Dryobates pubescens glacialis** Grinnell.  
 " **villosus leucothorectes** Oberholser.  
 " " **orius** Oberholser.  
 " " **icastus** Oberholser.  
 " " **sitkensis** Swarth.  
 " **scalaris eremicus** Oberholser.  
 " " **cactophilus** Oberholser.
- Colaptes auratus borealis** Ridgway.
- Xenopicus albolarvatus gravirostris** Grinnell.
- Phlœotomus pileatus floridanus** Ridgway.  
 " " **pycinus** Bangs.

All the above 11, subspecies rejected or held in abeyance by the Committee are recognized by Ridgway, Birds of N. and Mid. Amer., VI.

- Chordeiles virginianus howelli**, subsp. nov. Texas. Oberholser, Bull. 86, U. S. Nat. Mus., p. 57.
- Chordeiles acutipennis inferior** subsp. nov. Lower California. Oberholser, Bull. 86, U. S. Nat. Mus., p. 109.
- Mr. Ridgway (Birds N. and Mid. Amer., VI) endorses these two new races of Nighthawks.
- Setochalcis** gen. nov. for the Whip-poor-will as distinct from the Chuck-will's-widow; and,
- Chordeilidæ** fam. nov. for the Night Hawks. Oberholser, Bull. 86, U. S. Nat. Mus.
- Corvus brachyrhynchus paulus**, subsp. nov. Alabama. Howell, Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., XXVI, p. 199.
- Perisoreus canadensis sanfordi** subsp. nov. Newfoundland. Oberholser, Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., XXVII, p. 49.
- Agelaius phœniceus aciculatus** subsp. nov. Kern Co., Cal. Mailliard, Condor, XVII, p. 13.
- Agelaius phœniceus nevadensis** subsp. nov. Nevada. Grinnell, Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., XXVI, p. 107.
- Pinicola enucleator eschatosus** subsp. nov. Newfoundland. Oberholser, Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., XXVII, p. 5.
- Loxia curvirostra percna** subsp. nov. Newfoundland. Bent, Smithson. Miscel. Collns., 60, No. 15, p. 1.
- Carduelis carduelis bermudiana** subsp. nov. Bermuda. Kennedy, Bull. Brit. Orn. Club, CXCI, p. 33.
- Melospiza melodia beata**, subsp. nov. Enterprise, Fla. Bangs, Proc. N. E. Zoöl. Club, IV, p. 85.
- Melospiza melodia acadica** subsp. nov. Nova Scotia. Thayer and Bangs, Proc. N. E. Zoöl. Club, V, p. 67.
- Pipilo maculata falcifer** McGregor.
- “ “ **curtatus** Grinnell.
- “ “ **falcinellus** subsp. nov. Interior California. The first two rejected races reestablished and a new one described. Swarth, Condor, XV, No. 5, p. 168.
- Pipilo erythrophthalmus canaster** subsp. nov. Alabama. Howell, Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., XXVI, p. 202.
- Dendroica coronata hooveri** McGregor.
- Geothlypis trichas scirpicola** Grinnell.
- Hirundo erythrogaster palmeri**.
- Rejected races revived, Swarth, Univ. Cal. Publ. Zoöl. 10, No. 1, pp. 65-71.
- Toxostoma redivivum scnomæ** subsp. nov., Sacramento Valley, etc., Grinnell, Distributional List of Birds of Cal.
- Nannus hiemalis semidiensis** subsp. nov. Semidi Isl., Alaska. Brooks, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zoöl., LIX, No. 5, p. 400.
- Salpinctes guadaloupiensis proximus** subsp. nov. San Martin Isl., Lower California. Swarth, Condor, XVI, No. 5.
- Leucosticte tephrocotis dawsoni**, subsp. nov. Sierra Nevada. Grinnell, Condor, 1913, p. 77.

(b.) Species which have been found within the limits of the Check-List.

*Marila ferina* (Linn.).

*Marila fuligula* (Linn.).

*Cryptoglaux funerea funerea* (Linn.).

*Coccothraustes c. japonicus* Temm. & Schl.

All four taken in the Pribilof Islands. Evermann, Auk, 1913, p. 15.

*Dendrocygna viduata* (Linn.), in New Jersey, G. B. Grinnell, Auk, 1913, p. 110.

*Petrochelidon fulva pallida* Nelson, in Texas, Bishop, Auk, 1910, p. 459.

*Clangula clangula clangula* (Linn.).

*Fringilla montifringilla*, Linn. Pribilof Islands, Hanna, Auk, 1916, p. 402.

## II. CHANGES IN NAMES.

(a) Due to the subdivision of species or subspecies and the restriction of the "typical" race to an extralimital range.

*Gelochelidon nilotica* becomes *G. n. aranea* Wils. Mathews, Birds of Austral., II, pt. 3, p. 329, confirms Coues (Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., 1862, p. 536) that the North American form is distinct from the European.

*Sterna caspia* becomes *Hydroprogne tschegrava imperator* (Coues). Mathews, *do.*, p. 337. Again confirms Coues that the American bird is distinct. [Changes in generic and specific names are considered among nomenclature cases.]

*Sterna anætheta* becomes *Melanosterna anæthetus recognita* subsp. nov. Mathews, *do.*, pt. 4, p. 397. The American bird proves "different throughout" when compared with the typical form from the Philippines [changes in generic and specific names considered elsewhere].

*Puffinus cuneatus* becomes *P. pacificus alleni* subsp. nov. Mathews, *do.*, pt. 1, p. 83. *P. cuneatus* of the Marshall Islands is a subspecies of *P. pacificus* (Kermadec Isls.) but the American bird (from San Benedicto Isl.) is different from either.

*Puffinus griseus* is divided into *P. g. stricklandi* (Atlantic coast) and *P. g. chilensis* (Pacific). Mathews, *do.*, p. 96. True *griseus* is restricted to New Zealand and Australian seas.

*Fregetta grallaria* becomes *F. leucogaster* Gould. Mathews, *do.*, pt. 2, p. 39. These two species prove different upon examining the types. The latter is the bird referred to in the Check-List.

*Phœbetria palpebrata* = *P. p. auduboni* subsp. nov. Nichols and Murphy, Auk, 1914, p. 531.

*Dafila acuta* becomes *D. a. americana* Reich. Thayer and Bangs, Auk, 1916, p. 45. Confirm Reichenow, Orn. Monatsb. IX, p. 17, 1901, that the American and European birds are distinct. [The applicability of the name *tzitzihua* Vieill. for this race is also involved].

*Ægialitis hiaticula* becomes *Æ. h. major* Seeböhm. P. R. Lowe, Ibis, 1914, p. 395.

- Squatarola squatarola** becomes **S. s. cynosuræ** subsp. nov. Thayer and Bangs (Proc. N. E. Zoöl. Club, V, April 4, 1914) claim that the American bird differs from the European. Todd (Ann. Carnegie Mus., X, p. 146) fails to find constant differences.
- Gallinula galeata** becomes **G. chloropus cachinnans** subsp. nov. Bangs, Proc. N. E. Zoöl. Club, V, pp. 93-99. The North American bird is considered separable from that of South America (true *galeata*) and both regarded as subspecies of *G. chloropus* of Europe.
- Callipepla squamata squamata** becomes **C. s. pallida** Brewst. Bangs, Proc. N. E. Zoöl. Club, IV, p. 99.
- Melanerpes formicivorus formicivorus** becomes **Balanosphyra f. aculeata** Mearns. Ridgway, Birds N. and Mid. Amer., VI, p. 105. True *formicivorus* restricted to Mexico. [Generic name considered elsewhere.]
- Dryobates scalaris bairdi** becomes **D. s. symplectus** Oberholser. Ridgway, Birds N. and Mid. Amer., VI, p. 257. Endorses Oberholser in restricting true *bairdi* to Mexico.
- Passer domesticus** becomes **P. hostilis** Kleinschmidt, Falco, XI, No. 2, Dec. 1915. The English bird, from which our American birds are probably descended, is separated from the continental *P. domesticus*.

(b.) Species which are changed to subspecies.

- Thalassogeron culminatus** becomes **T. chrysostoma culminatus** Mathews, Birds Austral., II.
- Oceanodroma kaedingi** becomes **O. leucorhoa kaedingi** Willett, Auk, 1915, p. 301.
- Somateria dresseri** becomes **S. mollissima dresseri** Townsend, Auk, 1916, p. 291.
- Aluco pratincola** becomes **Tyto alba pratincola** Hartert, Vög. pal. Fauna, Heft VIII.
- Otus xantusi** becomes **O. asio xantusi** Ridgway, Birds N. and Mid. Amer., VI.
- Atthis morcomi** becomes **A. heloisa morcomi**.
- Amizilis cerviniventris chalconota** becomes **A. yucatanensis chalconota**, Ridgway, Birds N. and Mid. Amer., V.
- Corvus caurinus** becomes **C. brachyrhynchos caurinus**. Swarth, Univ. Cal. Publ. Zoöl. 10, No. 1, cf. also Rhoads, Auk.

(c) Subgenera raised to Genera or New Genera proposed.

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| <b>Melanosterna</b> | } Mathews, Birds Austral., II. The first two are not even recognized as subgenera in the Check-List. |
| <b>Phœbastria</b>   |  |
| <b>Thalasseus</b>   |  |
| <b>Hydroprogne</b>  |  |
| <b>Onychoprion</b>  |  |
| <b>Sternula</b>     |  |

**Oreopeleia** }  
**Chloroenas** } Ridgway, Birds N. and Mid. Amer., VII.  
**Patagiœnas** }

**Hierofalco**, B. O. U., List of British Birds.

**Cerchneis**, Chapman, Bull. A. M. N. H., XXXIV, p. 363. Cory, Field Mus. N. H., I, No. 9, p. 303.

**Megaceryle** } Miller.  
**Chloroceryle** } Ridgway, Birds N. and Mid. Amer., VI.

**Balanosphyra** }  
**Phrenopicus** } Ridgway, Birds N. and Mid. Amer., VI.

**Trogonurus** }  
**Nephœcetes** } Ridgway, Birds N. and Mid. Amer., V.

**Corthylio**, Miller, Auk, 1915, p. 234.

III. FORMS WHICH IT IS PROPOSED TO REJECT.

**Ixobrychus neoxenus**, a melanistic phase of *I. exilis*. Bangs, Auk, 1915, p. 483.

**Ardea herodias wardi**.

**Ardea wurdemanni**, both of these are phases of *A. h. occidentalis*. Bangs, Auk, 1915, p. 484.

**Falco rusticolus rusticolus**

**Falco r. gyrfalco** Hartert considers all the American Gyrfalcons referable to *F. r. caudicans* (N. A. and Greenland) and *F. r. obsoletus* (Labrador). Novit. Zool. XXII, pp. 167-185.

**Strix occidentalis caurina** = *S. o. occidentalis*. Oberholser, Proc. U. S. N. M., 49, p. 251.

**Otus flammeolus idahoensis** = *O. f. flammeolus*. Ridgway, Birds N. and Mid. Amer., VI.

**Cryptoglaux acadicus scotæus** = *C. acadicus*. Ridgway, Birds N. and Mid. Amer., VI.

**Coccyzus minor minor** = *C. m. maynardi*, so far as North American records are concerned. Ridgway, Birds N. and Mid. Amer., VII.

**Phalænoptilus nuttalli nitidus** = *P. n. nuttalli*. Ridgway, Birds N. and Mid. Amer., VI.

**Uranomitra** is united with *Amizilis*. Ridgway, Birds N. and Mid. Amer., V.

**Melospiza melodia morphna** = *M. m. rufina*. Swarth, Univ. Cal. Publ. Zoöl., 10, No. 1, p. 61.

**Dendroica cærulescens cairnsi** = *D. cærulescens*. Eifrig, Auk, 1915, p. 108.

**Geothlypis trichas arizela** = *G. t. occidentalis*. Grinnell, Publ. Zoöl. Univ. Cal., 12, No. 4, p. 202.